

FIGHT ON PANAMA FOODWARD

CONTRACTORS WHO DIDN'T GET IT MADE COMPLAINT.

Hudgins & Dumas, Who Didn't Get the Job Which Means the Spending of \$10,000,000 a Year, Says the Winner Used Part of Their Specifications.

To J. E. Markel of Omaha, who makes a specialty of feeding railroad employees, was awarded on Thursday the concession for boarding Government workmen on the Isthmus of Panama for the next five years, and the unsuccessful bidders, Messrs. Hudgins & Dumas, have protested to the President and have asked him to direct Chairman Shonts of the Isthmian Canal Commission to withhold the award. The contract involves the expenditure by the Government and its employees of about \$10,000,000 in five years. In their despatch to the President on Thursday Hudgins & Dumas say:

"Circumstances connected with the awarding of this privilege seem to indicate collusion on the part of one of our bidders having, as we discovered by examination yesterday, been credited to Mr. Markel as original production, while the preponderant weight of evidence called for, without public advertisement and with no regular time for receiving and opening sealed bids in the presence of the bidders warrant us in the assumption that a predisposition existed to award the contract to Mr. Markel and that other considerations were sacrificed to this end.

"In placing this matter before you, Mr. President, we respectfully wait for your decision. We are not desirous of the Panama concessions. Our only desire now is to prevent the consummation of what we deem an irregular proceeding, and in furtherance of this purpose we have, by advice of counsel, formally withdrawn our bid in a letter to Chairman Shonts."

Balf & Co. sent a despatch to the President asking for an investigation of the award. Hudgins & Dumas are newspaper men who formerly had the contracts for feeding immigrants at Ellis Island, now said by Harry Balf, president of Balf & Co. Mr. Hudgins says that his firm received a letter from Mr. Shonts in the last week in August saying that he would be glad to have the firm "send him sample menus for a week, as suggested."

Mr. Hudgins says he was surprised to see his menus in Mr. Markel's bid after he had been invited by Mr. Shonts to look over it on Thursday. Mr. Hudgins said yesterday that his firm offered to serve meals in the Panama hotels to regular patrons for \$14 a month, with an additional charge of \$3 a month for the care of rooms, and to feed the non-American laborers in tents for \$6 a month. He says he and Mr. Dumas calculated that these figures would "just about cover the cost of food and service, but that you have not good profits from the sale of side lines of goods, such as beverages, tobacco and general commissary stores, and we especially agreed to disburse any surplus above a return to us of 8 per cent. on the investment, for a fund to provide amusement for the canal employees or for such other purpose as the commission might determine."

Hudgins proved to the westward, whereupon we received from Chairman Shonts a letter which set up all sorts of obstacles to overcome in the performance of this contract, imposing upon the contractor conditions which had not been mentioned in the specifications nor in our conference with the chairman—such, for instance, as the requirement that we should have connection with the hotels and concluding as follows:

"To be entirely frank, I fear from the price you have made, that you have not considered all of the items mentioned in the letter, and that therefore your prices are lower than they otherwise would be. In the event, that you have not understood, and because we do not wish to take any advantage, I send you this communication, and give you the privilege of revising your figures. I will give you this if you desire to do so."

Mr. Hudgins says he received this letter on Wednesday afternoon and that he was required to revise his bid and have it in the hands of Mr. Shonts within half an hour, or at 4 o'clock. He and Mr. Dumas revised their bid, and the revised bid was turned in to Mr. Shonts at 4 o'clock. Mr. Dumas says Mr. Markel's bid had not been turned in, in his bid, but that he had turned in the hotel guests for \$30 a month, to charge \$6 a month for taking care of rooms and to board the canal laborers living in tents for \$6 a month.

This is Hudgins & Dumas's sample menu for Sunday: Breakfast—Baked apples, with whipped cream, broiled bluefish with hot sauce, lamb chops on fried potatoes, bread and butter, coffee, tea or cocoa. Dinner—Chicken soup, boiled turkey with oyster sauce, roast ham with sauce Robert, asparagus, beef, breast and butter, green peas, mashed potatoes, celery, ice cream, homemade cake, mixed fruits, nuts and raisins, coffee, Super-Pork and beans, rice, corn, sweet potatoes, green peas, butter, canned peaches, blackberry mud, homemade cake, mixed fruits, nuts and raisins, crackers and cheese, coffee.

Mr. Shonts, who was in the Isthmian Canal, last night, said there was nothing secret about the awarding of the bid to Mr. Markel or the method of inviting bids. The concession was made a matter of public record. He said that the concession was made by the Panama Railroad Company, which controls the hotels in the Canal Zone. The company authorized Mr. Shonts to take charge of the matter. It was not necessary to advertise. There had been no irregularity and no crookedness in awarding the contract. Mr. Shonts said he took into consideration the personality of the bidders, their organization and their experience. Mr. Markel was the only one who had been in the Canal Zone and his equipment and long experience in the West made him the best man for the work. Hudgins & Dumas had been invited to revise their bid because Mr. Shonts thought that they had made it under misapprehension.

The Government is now building at Colon a temporary refrigerating plant, a bakery and a laundry. The refrigerating plant will make fifty tons of ice a day and refrigerate a large quantity of meat, eggs and butter. A train will be run from Colon to the Government's new morning carrying a supply of food and laundry for the men and commissary camps. Ice, which is now almost unknown in the Isthmus, will also be distributed. Mr. Markel has visited the Isthmus and said yesterday that he had found the feeding conditions there "simply awful." The food, he said, was very bad and the men were obliged to pay a very high price for it. Eggs cost 10 cents and chickens 15 cents. The food, he said, caused almost as much sickness as the yellow fever.

The Government has equipped the Panama line of steamships with a new type of boiler, 150 miles off Cape Hatteras. It expected that the steamers will keep in touch with land all the way from New York to Colon.

Osborne to Prosecute Theater Trust. Former District Attorney James W. Osborne has been retained as special District Attorney to prosecute the theater trust proceedings instigated by James S. McInnis, Lefe's theatrical critic, against the proprietors of the New York theaters in the Klaw-Eranger combination. The defendants were held by Magistrate Pool last spring and their trials are set down for Sept. 19.

Langston Suit Filed. The suit of the Langston Monotype Machine Company against the Mergenthaler Linotype Company and Philip T. Dodge, president, for \$250,000 damages for infringement of the Langston patent in the United States Circuit Court.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

"My wife won \$400 at Sheephead Bay the other day through an odd hunch," said a sporting man who is pretty well known around Broadway and Forty-second street. "I was grouchy and out of sorts and snapped at her once in a while. Finally she said: 'Well you're an old kill-joy Bob. Brace up. Throw care to the winds.'"

"Then her eye caught a name on the program and she started. She called a messenger, whispered to him, handed him \$5 and settled back with a smile. I nearly had a fit a few minutes later when the messenger returned and handed her a roll of brown and green worth just \$405. Kill-kare won the first race at the fat price of 80 to 1."

"How on earth?" said I. "Just a hunch," she said. The word killed made me remember the first race, a horse named Kill-kare in the first race, didn't want you to give me the laugh, so I didn't say anything."

"I have thrown away dope sheets and forms," said the sporting man, "and hereafter I play wife's hunches exclusively."

She had been in her mistress's service exactly two weeks when she announced that on the following Saturday there would be a vacancy as lady's maid. Her mistress was puzzled. Their relations had been mutually satisfactory, at least to all outward appearances.

"Is there anything the matter with the place?" she demanded. "I thought I had been very easy on you."

"Deed, ma'am, I ain't got no kick 'bout de work," was the earnest assurance. "You shore am a fine lady to work for."

"Do you want more money?" "No, no, not exactly money," "Well, what is the trouble?" exclaimed her mistress impatiently.

"Well, you see, ma'am, wherever I wukked befoh, de ladies, dey sent notes to gemmen from de street, an' dey give me a dollah foh bringin' de note, an' den dere was de excitement. Yes'm, dat's de trouble. Dey ain't no excitement here. I got to go."

And she went. "The ignorance of the average person about the commonest things is what you might call agonizing," said the street car conductor. "It serves them a good turn sometimes, though," he added quickly, as a sudden lurch of the car threw a loving couple together.

"What do you mean by your first statement?" asked the man on the back seat. "Well, just watch the men on the back seats. The greenhorns in particular always lean the wrong way when they go around."

"You see in going around a corner the back platform of a car describes exactly the reverse of the curve in the street. You don't believe me work it out for yourself by a diagram," he added, as the man looked skeptical.

At a table in one of the Broadway resorts, after the theater, a group of men were laughing uproariously. "A new one," and "Good! Good!" they shouted, and the raucous who had moved them to laughter had to repeat his story for some newcomers. He had returned from the Portsmouth conference and had been telling of some of the types with which his experience at the place had brought him into contact.

"There was one unique—he was beyond all others," said the raconteur. "He was the most conservative spender I ever knew of. Do you know, I believe if he were an ostrich and were to lay an egg he'd lay a bluebird's egg. And the odd thing was, he works in New York!"

"I never coveted my neighbor's goods until I began eating the swell rolls which are to be found only in a certain old-fashioned downtown hotel," said a well known Wall street man the other day. "The rolls are peculiarly delicious, and I enjoy them with coffee. But if I get to the hotel half an hour late for luncheon they are apt to be off the shelves. Then I sit and wait for my friends, who arrive before me, who have a roll or two left on their plates, and wish that something would happen to them, that they would eat the rolls for me. Actually, one day, envy carried me so far that I bribed a waiter to palm two rolls from an unsuspecting person leaving a few tables away."

Two men walking on upper Broadway met two young women. The greeting accorded the taller of the men was decidedly frigid. "What is the matter?" asked his companion. "I thought you and those girls were quite chummy."

"We used to be," sighed the taller man. "But then one day when I had my camera. They wanted to be photographed, and I obliged them. A mighty good job I made of it, too, according to my way of thinking, but the girls were indignant. They said I had given them wrinkles and crooked noses, and that they didn't look a bit like that."

"Those criticisms cut right into my vanity," said the taller man. "I was so used to work as the owner of their good looks, and I was so used to adopting a complimentary tone I was hurt. I told them that the pictures were first class likenesses. You noticed the result of the argument a moment ago."

"Since then I have made pictures of half a dozen other friends. They are no longer friends. Nowadays I never photograph a person whose good looks I wish to retain. I stick to it that the pictures were first class likenesses. You noticed the result of the argument a moment ago."

Dr. Lyon's PERFECT Tooth Powder

Cleanses and beautifies the teeth and purifies the breath. Used by people of refinement for over a quarter of a century. Very convenient for tourists.

PREPARED BY J. H. Lyon, D.D.S.

SHOOTING GOES ON AT BAKU.

FOUR BRITISH SUBJECTS BELIEVED TO HAVE PERISHED.

Others Get Away on Steamer—More Troops Sent to Subdue the Warring Factions—Tatars, Fired On by Artillery, Capture the Guns—Cause of Trouble.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. TIFLIS, Sept. 8.—The Governor of Baku has telegraphed to Gen. Shirinkin that there has been a partial pacification of the hostile factions, but isolated shooting continues. There were many incendiary fires last night, but it is believed there was no loss of life.

A regiment of reinforcements has arrived from Tiflis. Further reinforcements from Vladikavkas and other places in the northern Caucasus are anxiously awaited. A local militia is being formed under regular officers. The Governor of Astrakhan has sent a quantity of bread to Baku.

Additional reinforcements of infantry and cavalry have been despatched to Shusha. ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 8.—Information has reached here that all the British subjects at Baku except four have escaped by sea. The four who did not get away are at Balakhany, a suburb, which is practically surrounded by Tatars. They are unable to get food or water.

The British Ambassador has sent a second note to Foreign Minister Lamsdorff concerning the safety of British subjects, and has also telegraphed again to the Viceroy of the Caucasus. Count Lamsdorff informed the Ambassador this afternoon that every possible step had been taken to protect the British.

The latest private news from the Caucasus is to the effect that the steamer on which the British at Baku escaped is anchored near the shore. It is feared that the four who were left at Balakhany have perished in the flames or been shot. Telegrams from the Caucasus are vague and confused. It is impossible to tell from them whether the rising is spreading or whether the troops are gradually getting the upper hand.

The foreign consulates, the banks and the Government buildings are guarded by troops. Balakhany has been completely burned. The Tatars plundered everything that was valuable, despite the artillery, which worked them down in masses. A private account of an attack on the hospital at Balakhany, where 1,000 Armenian workmen had collected, says that the commander of the artillery summoned the people to surrender.

The only reply was a shower of stones. Some shots were fired, killing a gunner. The officer then ordered three guns to open fire. The first shot went wide, but the second crashed into the hospital, killing numbers and wrecking the building. The mob attacked the artillery, captured the guns and threw burning oil on the soldiers, who fled. The Government bank and the churches were then set on fire.

Manuel Nobel, the manufacturer, the largest individual employer here, interviewed by the *Birjetya Vedomosti* to-day, declared categorically that the principal and original cause of the catastrophe in the Baku district was popular discontent. The slow progress of the reform program. This state of affairs, he said, was utilized by revolutionists to make numbers of recruits from the organizations of the working class. The national antipathy between the Tatars and the Armenians was only a secondary cause. Mr. Nobel further said:

"Now anarchy reigns throughout the region. The Tatars, whom the authorities formerly considered a conservative force and likely to act with the governing powers in counterbalance any coalition between the Russian Armenians and the revolutionaries, have falsified this calculation. It was the Tatars who first set the oil wells on fire. The Armenians arrived afterward."

The Russian banks at Baku in a circular addressed to the Government declare that the armistice at Baku announced yesterday will not avail. It adds: "The Tatars without work, numbering 3,000, from the burned factories have joined the disorders and have begun pillaging."

The circular further declares that the property of the banks and the lives of their employees are in danger of destruction unless the military protection is immediately strengthened. The reassuring telegrams from Baku and Shusha are offset by private messages recounting wholesale massacres of Armenians. In one suburb of Baku 400 Armenians were hemmed in a courtyard. They sent a frantic appeal to the Governor, but he sent them no help, and all were killed by Tatar troops.

LONDON, Sept. 8.—Telegrams received by mercantile firms in the city to-day say that the massacres and fires at Baku continue. British subjects there, whose number about a hundred, have taken refuge on board of a vessel before the Tatars. Thousands of persons have fallen victims to the artillery fire of the troops.

LONDON, Sept. 9.—A despatch to the Times from St. Petersburg describes the situation at Baku as desperate. A telegram received by the *Russ* says that tens of thousands of workmen marched from the ruined oil fields into Baku, perpetrating deeds of horror on the way. It is reported that they actually threw victims alive into burning edifices.

Troops were sent, but they were quite incapable of coping with the enormous numbers of armed and desperate rioters. To make matters worse, tribesmen, attracted by the prospects of loot, are coming down from the mountains and aiding in the work of death and destruction.

Considerable apprehension is felt lest the peasants on the lower Volga follow the example of the Caucasus and start the long-expected agrarian revolt, which, under the stimulus of famine, the cessation of field labor and the industrial standstill, due to the failure of the supply of naphtha, would rapidly spread through the country.

The newspapers are full of scathing criticisms of the helplessness and inefficiency of the administration. The most scathing comes from M. Timiriazoff, Assistant Minister of Finance, who, in an interview, points out that the whole of the oil region extends over about 7,000

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GEN. LEONARD WOOD'S REPORT

THE CONDITIONS IN MINDANAO GREATLY IMPROVED.

Date All, the Noted Outlaw, Still in Hiding With a Small Following—Outbreaks Largely Due to Fanatical Arab Priests, but Are Growing Less Frequent.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—The annual report of Major-Gen. Leonard Wood, commanding the Department of Mindanao, Philippine Division of the Army, says that in the twelve months ended June 30 conditions throughout that department had greatly improved and that many people never before subservient to the Government had been brought under its influence. The Christian Filipinos had remained quiet and no troops were necessary to quell disturbances among the people of that class.

Among the Moros conditions had improved. Slave catching, dealing and holding, Gen. Wood says, have practically ceased, "and observance of the instructions of the duly constituted authorities has become the rule rather than the exception."

No statistics are presented with the report of the deaths among the troops and of the number of the enemy destroyed. On this point Gen. Wood says: "It is regretted that the operations necessary to this end (putting down fanatical attempts at an uprising) have resulted in the death of some excellent officers and men, killed in the performance of duty, and a very considerable loss among the Moros."

Date All, a noted outlaw, was still in hiding with a small following, somewhere in the island of Mindanao. While at liberty, he had been quiet since last October, and fifteen or twenty thousand of his fanatical followers had come from the hills and jungles and gone to work.

Gen. Wood says that the outbreaks are largely due to fanatical Arab priests of a class which is a disturbing element throughout the East. The disturbances are growing less frequent and less dangerous, however, as every time the fanatics revolted their losses were very great. Occasional troubles may be expected from time to time, but these would be easily handled.

The most recent difficulty, up to June 30, for there has been one serious outbreak since then, was at the time of the capture of the pirate Pala. He had settled in Borneo and after raiding a British settlement fled to the Sulu Islands of the Philippines, where he gathered a few hundred followers, mostly outlaws and made trouble. The governor of Sulu lacked the power to capture the band and the regular troops took a hand. Pala and most of his followers were killed and a number of rifles captured. This was the last active band of outlaws in Mindanao.

Gen. Wood makes a number of recommendations for increasing the efficiency of the service. He dwells to a great extent on the vital necessity of mobility of troops, and reports that daily instructions under full field equipment with 100 rounds of ammunition and a weight equal to three days' rations, combined with two practice marches a week under this equipment, have been instituted. The men are being taught to climb, swim and to use their equipment. The cavalry is being instructed in the management of horses in water. Nearly every man in the department now knows how to swim.

On the ability of the soldier to handle himself with full equipment Gen. Wood says: "The soldier, under the full field equipment, is necessary if we are to develop what is, as a rule, entirely neglected—the marching training of the soldier—the development of his ability to depend upon his equipment. This ability depends upon well developed muscles and a familiarity with the load, and cannot be developed when the soldier is on his feet, and is not in the habit of carrying a great risk of disaster. Mobility is one of the greatest factors, and unless we are counting on always meeting an enemy camped on a high mountain, an advantage should be paid to the instruction of the soldier in marching and shooting with the full field equipment."

To increase the ability of the soldier in moving about one of the suggestions made in the report is that a shorter overcoat than the one now issued be given him. "Personal comfort and convenience," the General says, "must be made largely subservient to mobility, which is one of the greatest factors in war."

In reviewing the work of the Quarter-master's Department and the need of changes, Gen. Wood says that blue army shirts should not be issued with khaki. The blue formed too good a target and defeated the purpose of the khaki.

The establishment of a general service corps, according to Gen. Wood, is the greatest need of the service. The drain on the command for drivers, gardeners and carpenters should be done away with, and the civilian element of teachers, painters, etc., would be brought within the pale of military discipline by the establishment of a general service corps. Gen. Wood thinks also that there should be an establishment of the grades of first and second class privates, the authority for making promotions and reductions being vested in the company, troop and battery commanders.

Collision Splits Drivers. A pair of horses attached to a carriage driven by Jeremiah Conway of 515 West Fifty-fifth street ran away yesterday in the West Drive in Central Park. At 10:30 street the vehicle crashed into a survey in which were Max Isaacs of 49 Great Jones street and Benjamin Goodwin of 688 Broadway. They were thrown out and Conway was picked up from his seat. Aside from irritation on both sides, no damage was done.

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Blucher, Lace, Button and Congress Models of patent coltskin, vicid kid, gunmetal calf or wax calf with single or double soles, drill or leather lined, \$3.50

Stetson Hats for Men at \$3.50

New and Exclusive Fall Models.

The wise ones in the hat trade maintain that John B. made his big mistake in charging but three-fifty for his flexible conforming derby. They hold that the hat is worth more than that, to say nothing of the idea. We are not certain about the mistake, but of this we are: the hat does conform to the head of its own accord, it is as light as a soft hat and the "stock" measures up to the average five-dollar standard.

We have an exclusive Stetson Derby for the young fellows with snap and vigor to commend the style, \$3.50

Stetson Soft Hats are the finest in all the world—that no man will gainsay. The standard and a series of new shapes, at \$3.50, and from that up to \$12.00.

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The little things that have a big influence in defining your taste are ready-for-service in the new season's most exclusive styles. We present:

The new four-fold and French-seam four-in-hand scarfs in exquisite new shades, such as Pervanche, Richelieu, Bordeaux and Kendall green, both in monotoes and in figures. \$1.00

The bosom shirts for fall service fashioned of madras and French percales give every man's taste a chance for expression, so diversified are the designs and colors. We begin at one dollar and from that up to four-fifty at steps of fifty cents.

From Croger of London, we have a new English cane of natural ash wood with a heavy band and nose-piece of hall-marked sterling silver, with opera or crooked handle. The Croger imprint done in silver, identifies the cane. \$1.00

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BLAZE AT CHILD'S HOSPITAL.

Chemicals With Which Doctor Was Experimenting Went Off.

A fire broke out late yesterday afternoon in the east wing of the Child's Nursery and Hospital at Fifth street and Lexington avenue. This wing is leased by the John D. Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. A visiting doctor was experimenting in the laboratory on the third floor. He placed some chemicals in a water bath and while waiting for them to boil left the room. When he came back, he found that the chemicals had boiled over, setting fire to the floor.

He tried to extinguish the blaze, but found that it was gaining headway on him. He then sent over to Truck 2, which is just across the street. In a few minutes its men had the fire out. In the meantime an alarm had been sent in and the arrival of the engine caused some excitement in the neighborhood. The damage was about \$100.

WEST SIDE SCUTTLE THEFT.

House of Dr. Newcomb Robbed by an Over the Roof Visitor.

A thief broke into the house of Dr. James E. Newcomb of 118 West Sixty-ninth street last night and carried away about \$300 worth of jewelry. The thief broke in through the skylight and confined his operations to the top floor. He entered the room of Mrs. Wilmot, mother of Dr. Newcomb's wife, and the rooms of the two servants.

All the people in the house except one servant, who was asleep, were on the second floor. They heard no noise. The robbery was not discovered until the maid retired. She immediately notified Dr. Newcomb. He went to the West Sixty-eighth street station and reported it to the police. The thief is still at large.

Bryan Breaks Ground for a Library.

7,000 PERSONS, William Jennings Bryan broke ground for the proposed Bryan-Bennett library, to be erected on the site of the house in which Mr. Bryan was born.

In his address Mr. Bryan paid a high tribute to President Roosevelt in connection with the Russian-Japanese peace.

RING VANISHED IN COURT.

It Was On Finger of Baby Who Was Fostered by the Crowd.

Mrs. Elizabeth Viras, who lives at 31 Hamilton street, had a falling out with one of her neighbors yesterday and went to the Essex Market court to get a summons. She took her baby with her. The baby wore a small gold ring and the last time Mrs. Viras saw the ring was just before she went before the Magistrate. There was quite a crowd in court and every body wanted to play with the smiling infant. Anyway, the ring was missing from the child's hand when the mother stepped from the bridge, and she told the cop she thought they ought to be more vigilant. "It's very strange," she said, "that a baby can't come into court without having its little trinkets stolen."

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